

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

The sizing and configuration of these various elements depends upon the details of the specific facility in which the cargo loading system 10 is installed, as well as the particular type and size of transport vehicle employed for the shipping operation. In the preferred embodiment the system is configured for loading and unloading a truck trailer, ~~however~~ which as shown in the drawings is referred to as a "dry van" and (in the United States) is employed in standard (outside) widths of about 8 feet (96 inches) and about 8.5 feet (102 inches), with the palletized cargo conventionally being sized to fill the interior width of such dry vans either two abreast or singly, most commonly being mounted on standardized, nominal 4-foot pallets (e.g., 48 X 40 inches), employed singly or joined together. ~~However,~~ size and configuration modification may be implemented to accommodate various transport vehicles and facility layouts; for example, the extensible dock may be configured to extend laterally (i.e., sideways) onto a railroad flatcar rather than longitudinally into a truck trailer.